

U.S. House Of Representatives Edits Wikipedia To Misinform American Public And Attempt To Smear Independent Media Personalities?

Paul Joseph Watson

Prison Planet.com

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Entry from IP traced to U.S. House of Representatives describes Alex Jones as 'Kremlin disinformation agent'

Edits to the Wikipedia profiles of Alex Jones and Abby Martin which malign the two alternative media personalities as Kremlin propagandists are linked to an IP address associated with the House of Representatives, prompting suggestions that the U.S. government is involved in an online smear campaign.



[pending revision]

Revision as of 18:37, 14 July 2014 (edit) (undo)

143.231.249.138 (talk)

(→Reception and impact: Russia Today appearances)

[Next edit →](#)

- + Following his appearances on Russia Today, there were allegations that he was a disinformation agent with ties to the Kremlin.

Lookup an IP address :

143.231.249.138



[list]

IP addresses can be entered using
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[Help »](#)

IP : **143.231.249.138** Neighborhood [?»](#)
Host : b249-138.house.gov [?»](#)
Country : United States [?»](#)

Yesterday evening a Wikipedia user attempted to edit radio host Alex Jones' profile to [add the sentence](#), "Following his appearances on Russia Today, there were allegations that he was a disinformation agent with ties to the Kremlin."

A simple trace on the IP address that posted the entry reveals that the computer involved "is registered to Information Systems, U.S. House of Representatives."

A [separate edit](#) describes RT host Abby Martin as a "Russian propagandist," despite the fact that [Martin made headlines back in March](#) for publicly criticizing Russia's involvement in Crimea on her own show. The IP address leads back to the same computer.

Although the Alex Jones entry remained pending, the entry describing Abby Martin as a "Russian propagandist" was posted live to Wikipedia before [being amended](#) a minute later.



"Abigail Suzanne "Abby" Martin" is an [[News media in the United States|American journalist]] and host of "[[Breaking the Set]]" on [[RT America]] network, working at the Washington, D.C. bureau.<ref name="Koss">Koss, Jeremy. (May/June 2013). [http://digital.somamagazine.com/publication/?

Revision as of 20:22, 14 July 2014 (edit) (undo)

143.231.249.138 (talk)

(Not a real journalist)

[Next edit →](#)

"Abigail Suzanne "Abby" Martin" is a [Russian propagandist](#), and host of "[[Breaking the Set]]" on [[RT America]] network, working at the Washington, D.C. bureau.<ref name="Koss">Koss, Jeremy. (May/June 2013). [http://digital.somamagazine.com/publication/?

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A [Wiki News article](#) notes that IP addresses linked to Capitol Hill have been “vandalizing” Wikipedia since 2006 and that, “Members of Congress or their staff were vandalizing Wikipedia by removing critical information in various articles, or adding false or offensive information. These edits were and continue to be done using computers owned or operated by the United States government.”

It’s possible that the IP address is being spoofed to make it look like the edits are being made from someone on Capitol Hill when in fact they’re not, although the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Wiki News seem convinced that the edits are indeed being made from government-owned computers.

The screenshot shows a standard Wikipedia welcome page. At the top, there's a blue icon of a classical building with the letters 'IP' on it. Next to it, the word 'Welcome!' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, a blue button with the text 'Create an account!' is visible. The main text on the page reads: 'Your host, b249-138.house.gov (143.231.249.138), is registered to Information Systems, U.S. House of Representatives and is a government facility, so you might receive messages on this page that were not intended for you.' A note below this states: 'To have your own user pages, keep track of articles you've edited in a watchlist, and have access to a few other special features, please consider creating an account.' Another note cautions: 'If you are autoblocked repeatedly, contact your network administrator and request it contact Wikimedia's XFF project about enabling X-Forwarded-For HTTP header spoofing for this user. Alternatively, you can list this IP address at Wikipedia:WikiProject on XFFs. Administrators: review contributions carefully if blocking this IP address or reviewing Template:Anonblock. In response to vandalism from this IP address, abuse reports may be sent to its network administrator for investigation.' A red warning icon with a white 'X' is present. A blue information icon with a white 'i' follows the text: 'Some government IP addresses are considered sensitive. If blocking this IP address, determine if Wikipedia:SIP applies.' A yellow RSS feed icon is shown with the text: 'Officials and network administrators, to monitor this IP address for vandalism, can subscribe to a web feed of this page in either RSS or Atom format.' A large red warning triangle icon with a white exclamation mark is at the bottom left. To its right, the text reads: 'This IP address has been repeatedly blocked from editing Wikipedia in response to vandalism. Further abuse from this IP address may result in an extended ban or permanent block.' Below this, a link says: 'Notify an administrator • contribs • block • block log'.

The notion of governments and large institutions gaming websites in order to spread disinformation is a [firmly established practice](#).

[Newly released files](#) obtained from whistleblower Edward Snowden confirm that the British government engages in “fake victim blog posts,” online “false flag operations,” as well as using tools that can sway online polls and manipulate public sentiment on the Internet.

[According to journalist Glenn Greenwald](#), the objective of the program is to, “inject all sorts of false material onto the internet in order to destroy the reputation of its targets.”

Last month [it emerged](#) that the U.S. federal government was collaborating with Wikipedia editors to ‘improve’ Wikipedia entries related to government information.

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